Hunt commits to new dialogue on prevention. Can it be bipartisan?

The Public Health Association of Australia welcomes the Health Minister’s commitment today that his government, if re-elected, would commit to convening a round table with preventative health experts.

At this morning post-budget health breakfast in Canberra, Greg Hunt, gave a commitment to engage public health leaders to create a more sustainable health budget.

Minister Hunt said, “For me, the next big thing is preventative health.”

“This is welcome,” PHAA CEO Terry Slevin said.

“With an aging population and a dominance and growth of chronic disease, the current focus on health through the prism of hospitals and drugs is unsustainable and must be revisited.”

With an election imminent, the PHAA is calling on federal Labor to commit to the same roundtable, should it form government after May.

“Commonwealth spending on health is up, but its big spending on tackling illness rather than primary prevention and health promotion,” Slevin said.

“A healthy population drives a strong economy, not the other way around.”

ENDS

For further information/comment:
Terry Slevin, CEO of the Public Health Association Australia 0419 901 599 tslevin@phaa.net.au